

1. A gift bag comprising:

substantially parallel front and rear panels, each having a top edge, a bottom edge opposite the top edge, and two lateral edges; and

a pair of substantially parallel side panels, each having a top edge, a bottom edge opposite the top edge, two lateral edges, and a generally longitudinal fold having a first end adjacent to the top edge of the side wall and a second end spaced from the first end;

wherein the lateral edges of the front and rear panels are joined to the lateral edges of the side panels, and a bottom panel having two pairs of substantially parallel lateral edges, wherein the lateral edges of the bottom panel are joined to the bottom edges of the front, rear, and side panels to form a container having an interior portion defined by the front, rear, and side panels and the bottom panel, said container further having an opening width defined as the distance between the top edges of the front and rear panels; and

wherein the gift bag has an expanded width and a collapsed width, where the width of the gift bag opening is smaller when the top edge of each side panel is at its collapsed width and more creased along the longitudinal fold than when each side panel is at its expanded width;

wherein the front, rear, and side panels of the gift bag possess a degree of stiffness that is sufficient to provide a free-standing, upright gift bag; and

wherein the entire outwardly facing surface of said gift bag is completely formed from a napped filamentary material.

2. The gift bag of claim 1, wherein said napped filamentary material comprises at least a paper layer and a napped filamentary textile layer adhered to said paper layer to form a single sheet of napped filamentary material.

3. The gift bag of claim 2, wherein said paper layer and said napped filamentary textile layer are coextensive with each other.

4. The gift bag of claim 2, wherein said gift bag is formed such that an cut edge of said single sheet of napped filamentary material is aligned with a folded edge of said gift bag.

5. The gift bag of claim 2, wherein the top edges of the gift bag have a double thickness of said napped filamentary material such that the napped filamentary surface extends over the top edges of the gift bag and onto a portion of the inner surface of the gift bag.

6. The gift bag of claim 1, further comprising a handle.

7. The gift bag of claim 1, further comprising a pair of handles, wherein one handle is connected to the front panel and the other handle is connected to the rear panel.

8. The gift bag of claim 7, wherein said handles are attached to the front and rear panels by passing through a pair of holes in each of said panels.

9. The gift bag of claim 7, wherein said handles are covered in said napped filamentary material.

10. The gift bag of claim 7, wherein a card with printed information is attached to at least one of said handles.

11. The gift bag of claim 1, wherein the pile of the napped filamentary surface is short to resemble suede.

12. The gift bag of claim 1, wherein the pile of the napped filamentary surface is long to resemble the fur of an animal.

13. A method of handling a gift, said method comprising the steps of:
providing a gift bag with a filamentary surface;
unfolding said gift bag;
subsequently, locating said gift in said gift bag.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of giving said gift bag to a recipient.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said step of providing said gift bag includes the step of providing information attached to a handle.

16. A gift bag comprising:
substantially parallel front and rear panels, each having a top edge, a bottom edge opposite the top edge, and two lateral edges, and
wherein the lateral edges of the front and rear panels and a bottom panel having two pairs of substantially parallel lateral edges, wherein the lateral edges of the bottom panel are joined to the bottom edges of the front and rear panels to form a container having an interior portion, said container further having an opening width defined as the distance between the top edges of the front and rear panels;
wherein the panels of the gift bag possess a degree of stiffness that is sufficient to provide a free-standing, upright gift bag;
wherein the entire outwardly facing surface of said gift bag is completely formed from a napped filamentary material; and
wherein said gift bag panels contain at least one closure device.

17. The gift bag of claim 16, wherein a pile of the napped filamentary surface is long to resemble the fur of an animal.

18. The gift bag of claim 16, wherein the pile of the napped filamentary surface is short to resemble suede.

19. The gift bag of claim 16, further comprising a pair of handles, wherein one handle is connected to the front panel and the other handle is connected to the rear panel.

20. The gift bag of claim 19, wherein said handles are attached to the front and rear panels by passing through a pair of holes in each of said panels.

21. The gift bag of claim 19, wherein said handles are covered in said napped filamentary material.

22. The gift bag of claim 19, wherein a card with printed information is attached to at least one of said handles.

23. The gift bag of claim 16, wherein said closure device is resealable.

24. The gift bag of claim 23, wherein said closure device is a two-piece closure device.

25. The gift bag of claim 24, wherein said two-piece closure device is a snap.

26. The gift bag of claim 24, wherein said two-piece closure device is Velcro.